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## Mrs. Downey Home From China



Associated Press

Mrs. Mary V. Downey is met by her son William at Idlewild

A weary Mrs. Mary V. Downey returned yesterday from a trip to Communist China, where she visited a son imprisoned on spy charges.

"I hope it won't be necessary to have to go back to visit him again in prison," she said when she arrived at New York International Airport, Idlewild Queens.

Asked whether she felt her son, serving a life sentence, might be freed, however, Mrs. Downey replied, "I was given no indication that my son might be released."

Mrs. Downey had been quoted as saying at a Hong Kong news conference that Hong authorities had hinted that her son, John T. Downey, 30 years old, might be released for good behavior, though possibly not for some years.

Mrs. Downey, a teacher in New Britain, Conn., was met by another son, William, a New York bank employe. They left soon by automobile for her home.

Later, in New Britain, Mrs. Downey said it was a Red Cross official who had said her son might be released.

Mrs. Downey spent two weeks in Communist China. She said she had found conditions in Peiping improved since her last visit and had seen evidence of "a great deal of progress."

She visited her son five times for a total of ten hours. She said he appeared in good health and spirits. He has Russian and Chinese cellmates, she said.